

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20500

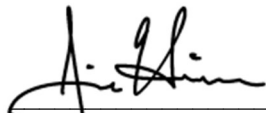
Dear Mr. President:

In the wake of the cyberattack on the Colonial Pipeline, which left millions of Americans facing increased gas prices and shortages, it is time for the United States to be clear that cyberattacks on our infrastructure will be met with swift and proportional retaliation. Sadly, diplomatic objections and other measures have failed to deter illegal and dangerous behavior. Until it is clear that we will extract a cost from those who attack our infrastructure, businesses, and citizens, or assist or tolerate those who do, we will continue to see these incidents increase in both frequency and severity.

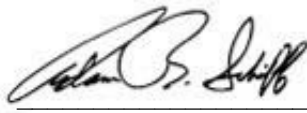
Most of the cyberattacks or ransomware attacks that occur in the United States are never reported to the public. The recent attacks against our fuel and food infrastructure represent only the tip of the iceberg. Foreign governments, criminal organizations, and lone-wolf operators will continue to relentlessly probe for weaknesses in our defenses and, inevitably, they will sometimes succeed. That is why, when we are able to identify our attackers, we should use our considerable technological advantage to deter further attacks using our own offensive capabilities.

We are pleased to see recent reports that your Administration is considering appropriate countermeasures to these attacks. As you prepare to meet with Russian President Putin next week in Switzerland, we believe it is important to further signal our increased willingness to strike back. We encourage more discussion of what additional responses would look like, and we stand ready to support you in this endeavor.

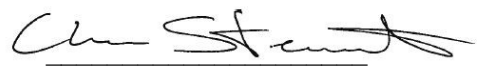
Sincerely,



JIM HIMES
Member of Congress



ADAM SCHIFF
Member of Congress



CHRIS STEWART
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense
The Honorable Avril Haines, Director of National Intelligence